you are drunk. The terrible thing is that one can never get sufficiently drunk.

He thought: the world could have had a different history. The surface of the earth might have been covered otherwise. If the world had never had any other inhabitants than creatures like me, it would have had no history.

I hate all careers that owe their existence only to the spitefulness of men.

In this whole comedy the important acts stand at the two extremities: birth and death. Of one we are not yet aware; of the other we are no longer aware. And it is even likely that as soon as you are buried, you do not remember dying. We are aware only of the death of others — because it makes our life easier.

Individual characteristics are more general (I mean more human) than ethnical characteristics. To restate this: the individual man tries to escape the race. And as soon as he ceases to represent the race, he represents man; the idiosyncrasy is a pretext for generalities.

HonnStete. All that this word contains.[17]

Synthesis must be preceded by analysis; and analysis, a need of the human mind, springs from an awareness of complexity. And awareness of complexity can become a passionate stupefaction.

That strange weakness of the mind which constantly makes us doubt that future happiness can equal past happiness is often our only source of suffering. We attach ourselves to the outward show of our mourning as if it were fitting to prove our sorrow to others. We seek memories and ruins; we should like to relive the past and long to

continue our joys after they are squeezed dry.

I detest all melancholy and fail to understand why confidence in the beauty of the future does not prevail over adoration of the past.

Do we not resemble those people of the seashore who every evening weep over the sun that has set in the sea and cry for a long time before the ocean, facing the west —even after the renewed sun, behind them, is rising?

[17] The word has the various meanings of "honesty/* "integrity," "civility," "propriety," "modesty," and "respectability." *Une femme honn&e* means "a respectable woman," but *un honn&e homme* meant "an all-around man" and represented an ideal for the classic age.